

Please replace the abstract of the disclosure with the  
following amended abstract:

---

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A<sup>2</sup>  
A data-processing device, in particular a network processor  
for processing layer 1 to 7 of protocol stacks in  
applications such as LAN, ATM switches, IP routers or frame  
relays which are based on DSL, Ethernet or cable modems is  
enabled to process at least two independent processes in  
parallel. The processor has instruction buffers, instruction  
decoders, and instruction-execution units corresponding to  
[[a]] the number of processes to be processed in parallel. A  
program flow control unit essentially controls the parallel  
processing, by controlling the fetching of bundles from a  
program memory and a branching control unit, and also by  
controlling an output of executable instructions.

---